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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

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SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(7-13 October 1977)

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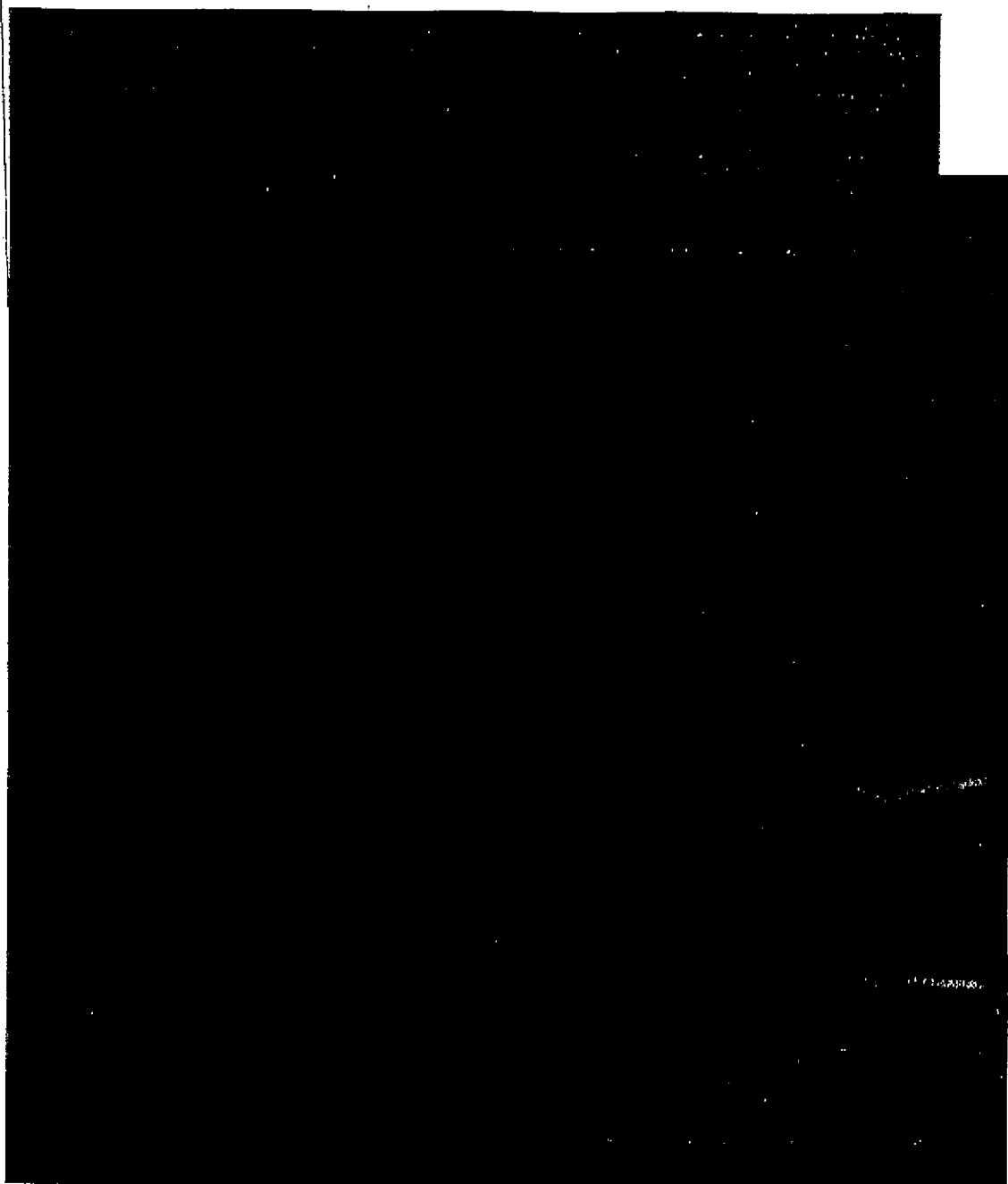
APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: JUN 11 1999

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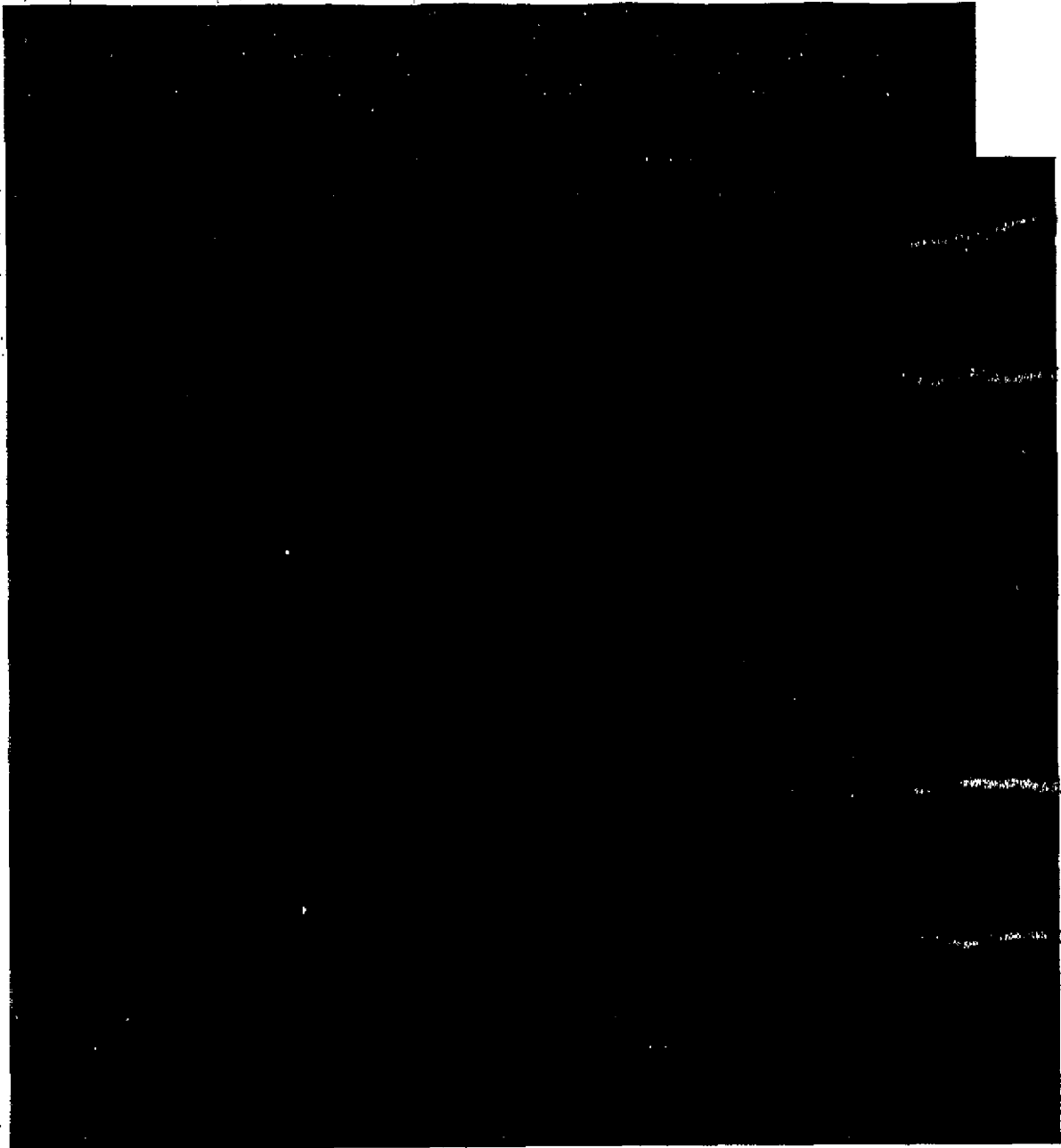
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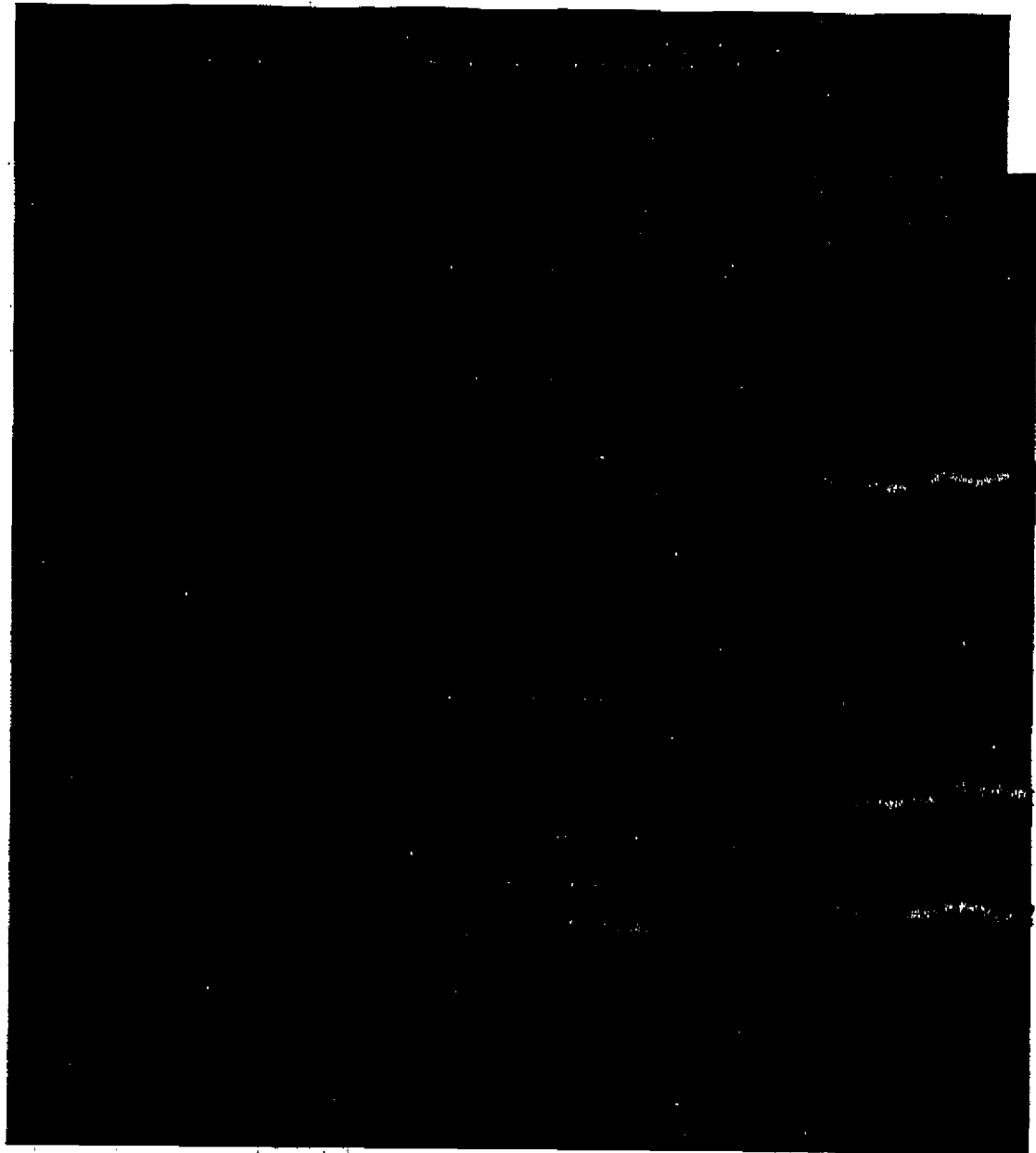
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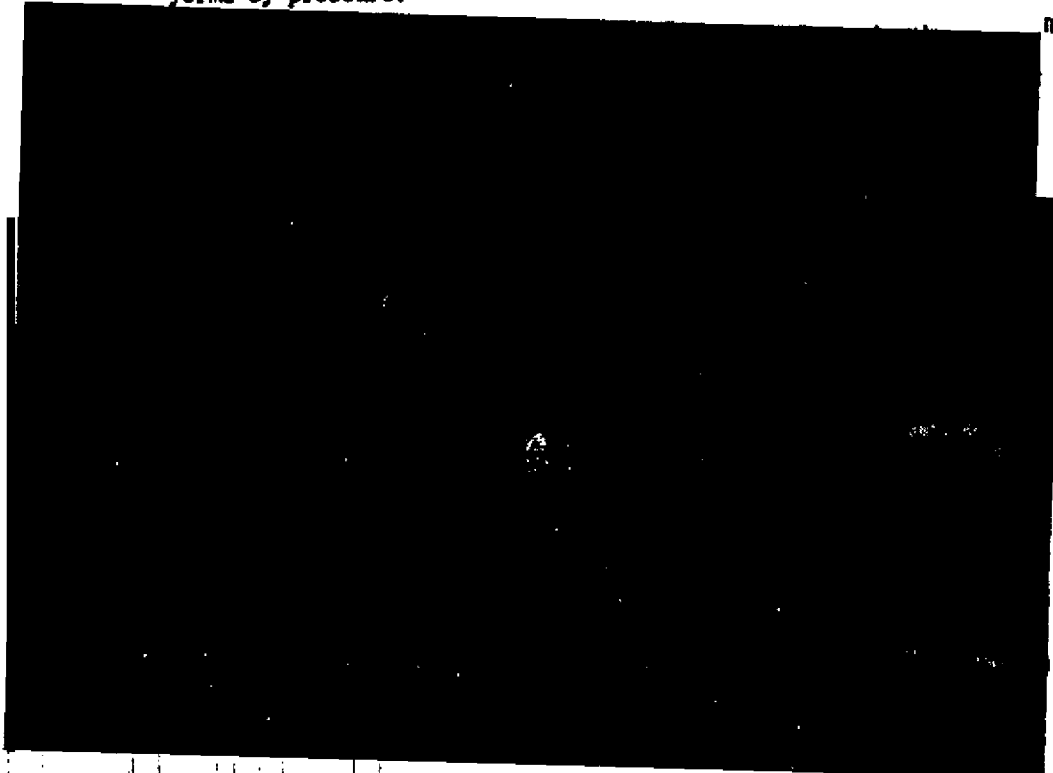
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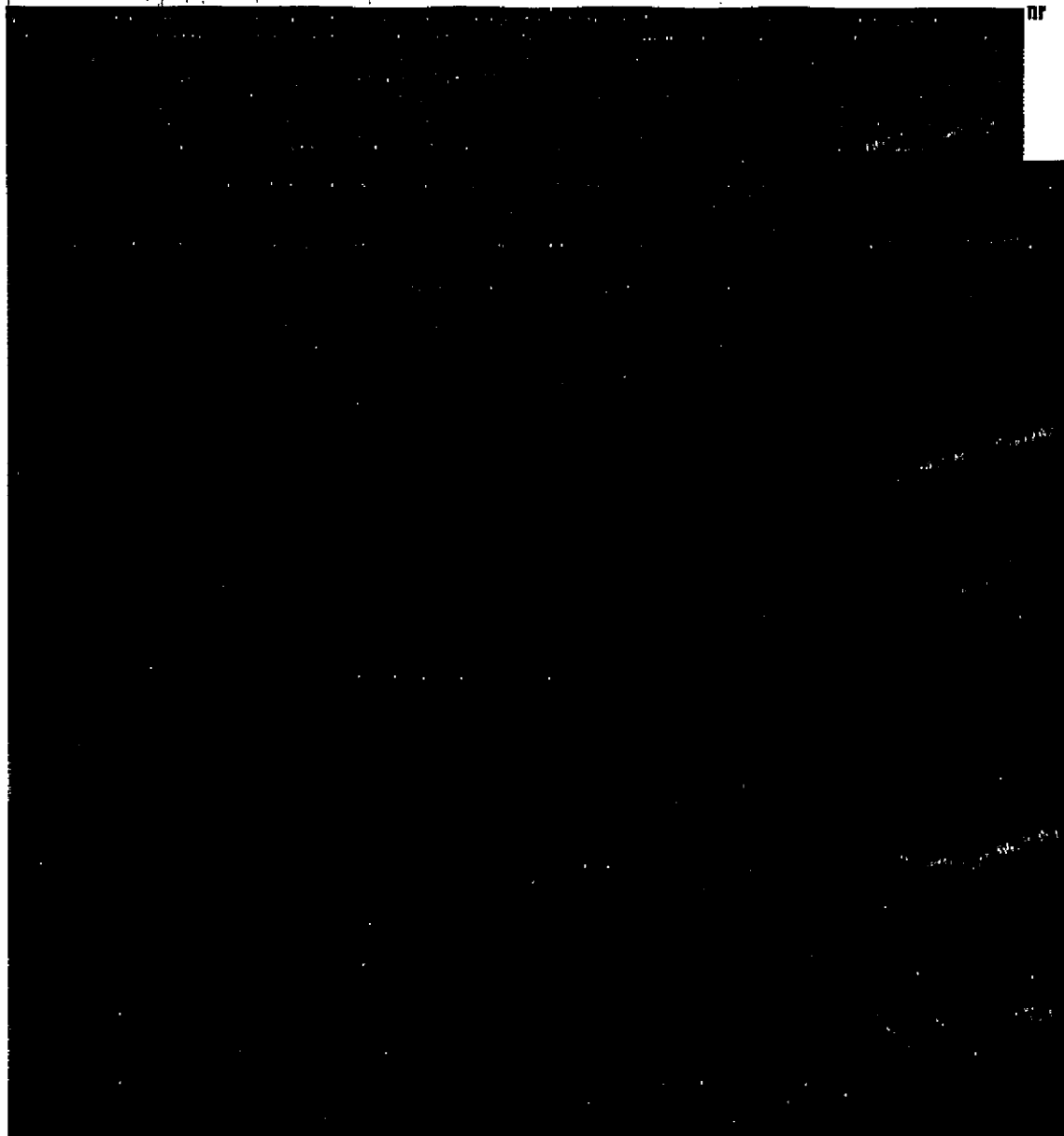
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-- The Chilean government's recent moves to ameliorate human rights practices have begun to remove a major irritant in relations with some leading domestic critics, particularly the Catholic Church and--to a lesser extent--labor. The Church has lately adopted a more conciliatory attitude and is studiously avoiding confrontation with the government. The warming trend in Church-state relations has been most evident in comments by Cardinal Silva, a Church liberal who has frequently voiced opposition to government policies in the past. The Cardinal apparently believes that a quiet approach now offers the best chance of influencing the military regime. On the labor front, a threatened showdown seems to have been averted with the government's shelving of plans to oust a group of union leaders from their posts. Key labor leaders may be moving toward the conclusion that it is time to end their adversary relationship with the government and switch to more subtle forms of pressure.



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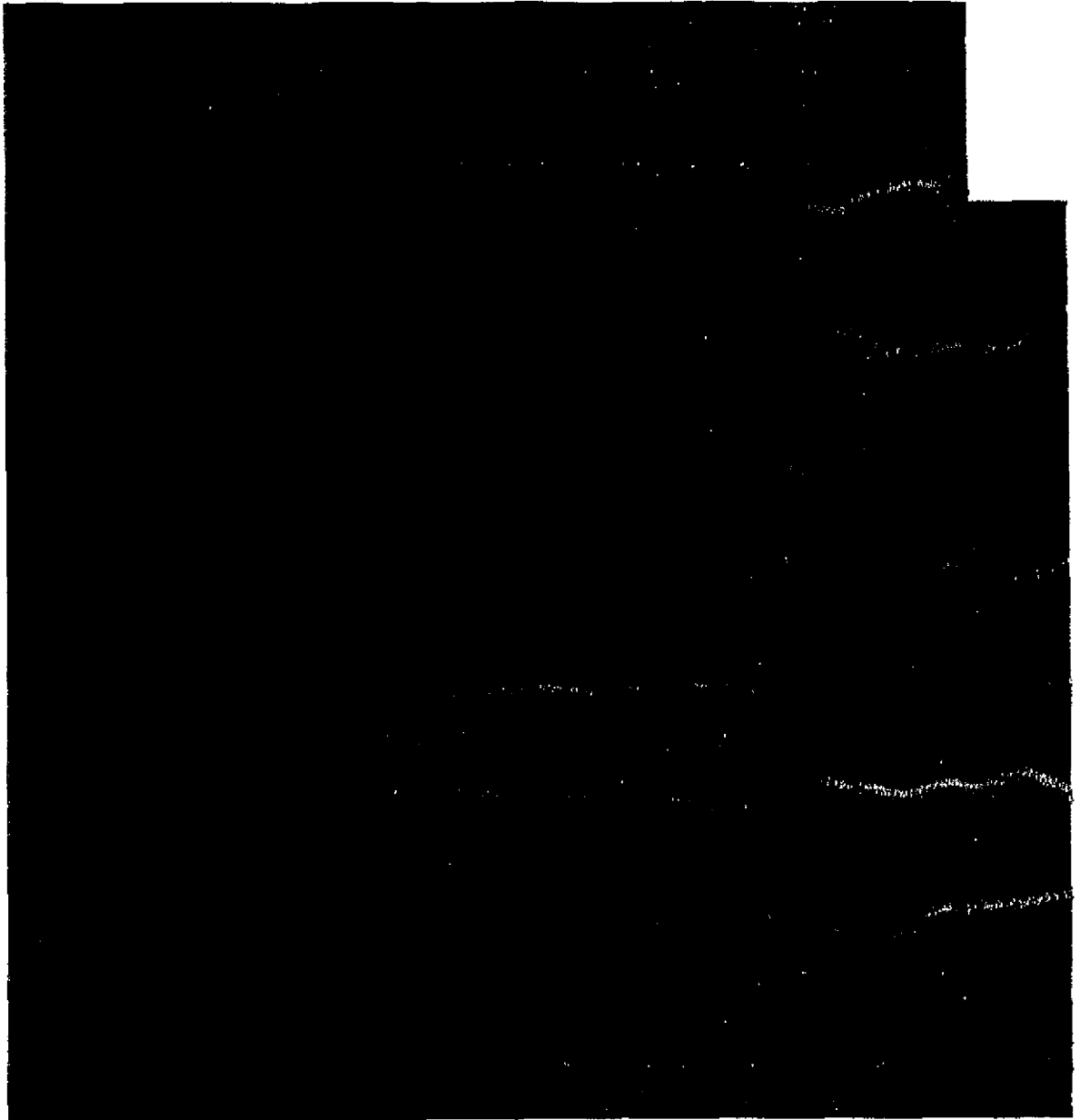
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